IN THE CLAIMS:

Please revise the claims, as follows:

---

1. (Currently Amended) A computer method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

    ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

    and

    iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating <u>a</u> department store space-requirements problem with <u>a</u> department store space-availability solution.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, <u>further</u> comprising<u>:</u>

    ~~a step of~~ updating the department store space-requirements database.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, <u>wherein said</u> ~~comprising a step of~~ updating the department store space-requirements database ~~so that it includes~~ <u>comprises</u> <u>including</u> the results of employing a data mining technique.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, <u>further</u> comprising ~~a step of~~ <u>:</u>

2

updating the department store space-availability database.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein said ~~comprising a step of~~ updating the department store space-availability database ~~so that it includes~~ comprises including the effects of employing a data mining technique on the department store space-requirements database.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising ~~a step of~~:

refining ~~a~~ an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-requirements database.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising: ~~a step of~~

refining ~~a~~ an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-availability database.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~a step of~~

employing neural networks as the data mining technique.

9. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method ~~steps~~ for providing

an interactive department store space management database, the method comprising ~~the steps~~
~~of:~~

    i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a
compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

    ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a
compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department
store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

    and

    iii) employing a data mining techique for interrogating said department store
space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an
output data stream, said output data steam correlating a department store space-requirements
problem with a department store space-availability solution.

10. (Currently amended) A computer comprising:

    i) means for inputting a department store space-requirements database comprising a
compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

    ii) means for inputting a department store space-availability database comprising a
compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department
store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

    iii) means for employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department
store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases;

    and

iv) means for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.

11. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said neural networks classify features of said department store space-requirements and features of said department store space-availability.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution comprises determining whether a match exists between a classification of features of said department store space-requirement determined to be a problem and a classification of features of said department store space-availability.